

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DPW-01 AID-20 SAM-01 EUR-25

DRC-01 TRSE-00 IO-14 /185 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3507

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS IN AUSTRALIAN
LEFTIST NEWSPAPER

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PORTION OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
IN INTERVIEW OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS, WHICH APPEARED
IN JUNE 18-JULY 4 ISSUE OF THE DIGGER. INTERVIEW IS CONSIDERED
TO BE FACTUALLY PRESENTED AND IS SUBMITTED AS FURTHER EXPRESSION
BY CAIRNS OF HIS FIRM AND EXPLICIT OPPOSITION TO CONTINUATION
OF U.S. AND JOINT DEFENSE FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA AND HIS WISH
TO "GET AUSTRALIA OUT OF THE BIG POWER MILITARY SYSTEM" AS
WELL AS HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PRG. END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PORTION OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN
INTERVIEW OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS, WHICH APPEARED IN
JUNE 18-JULY 4 ISSUE OF THE DIGGER.

3. THIS MONTHLY NEWSPAPER EXPRESSES A RADICAL AND REVOLUTIONARY
VIEW OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL ISSUES, BUT IS PROBABLY
NOT RPT NOT FORMALLY COMMUNIST. ONE OF PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS AND
WRITERS OF THE DIGGER IS JOAN COXSEDGE, DEFEATED ALP CANDIDATE IN
VICTORIAN STATE ELECTIONS IN MAY, 1973. SHE MOSTLY REFLECTS
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POINT OF VIEW OF SOCIALIST LEFT OF ALP, BUT SHE IS CONSIDERABLY

MORE CONSERVATIVE ON SOME ISSUES THAN OTHER WRITERS FOR PUBLICATION.

4. QTE QUESTION: IT'S BEEN SAID THAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET EXTRA ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN YOUR NEW ROLE. CAN YOU IMAGINE ANY INFORMATION THAT YOU WOULD GET IN THIS NEW POSITION THAT COULD LEAD YOU TO ACCEPT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF US CONTROLLED MILITARY FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA?

QTE CAIRNS: NO.

5. QTE QUESTION: WELL, TO ACCEPT THE ONES THAT ARE HERE?

QTE: CAIRNS: PERSONALLY, NO. MY LONG TERM VISION OF THAT IS THAT I DO WANT TO GET AUSTRALIA OUT OF THE BIG POWER MILITARY SYSTEM. BUT THAT IS A PERSONAL VIEW AND EVERYONE KNOWS THAT HAS BEEN ONE OF MY LONG TERM OBJECTIVES. BOTH IN RESPECT TO THE PRESENCE OF AUSTRALIAN TROOPS IN ASIA, WHICH WE;VE LARGELY ACHIEVED, AND IN RESPECT TO THE AUSTRALIAN INTEGRATION INTO THE INTERNATIONAL WEAPONS SYSTEM. I DON'T WANT THAT ANY MORE. THAT'S PERSONAL, AND I WOULD ALWAYS BE LOOKING TOWARDS THAT LONG TERM OBJECTIVE.

6. QTE QUESTION: WITH THE PROPOSED BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA, DO YOU SEE IT AS INEVITABLE THAT IF THE BASE IS BUILT, THERE WILL BE AN ARMS RACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

QTE CAIRNS: OF COURSE THERE WILL. THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT AN ARMS RACE IS TO STOP IT FROM STARTING.

7. QTE QUESTION: TO STOP DIEGO GARCIA?

QTE CAIRNS: YES. I DON'T THINK THAT THAT'S NECESSARILY THE FIRST STEP. BUT I THINK THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS RIGHT IN DOING WHAT IT CAN TO STOP THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA. I THINK THAT THE METHODS THAT WE HAVE BEEN USING HAVE BEEN GOOD METHODS AND I THINK WE'VE GOT TREMENDOUS SUPPORT AROUND THE PACIFIC FOR WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING.

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8. QTE QUESTION: BUT WHAT ABOUT THE METHODS THAT ARE BEING USED IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO VIS A VIS THE OTHER BASES THAT ARE ESTABLISHED IN AUSTRALIA LIKE THE NORTHWEST CAPE, METHODS THAT BASICALLY AMOUNT TO CONCURRING WITH THE UNITED STATES' EXCLUSIVE USE?

QTE CAIRNS: WELL, WE ARE CONCURRING WITH THE AMERICAN USE. I THINK THIS, LIKE EVERY OTHER QUESTION IS A MATTER FOR JUDGMENT

ABOUT HOW FAR YOU CAN GO AT A PARTICULAR TIME IN PURSUIT
OF YOUR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SAID THAT
WE WILL NOT RENEW THESE ARRANGEMENTS, CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS.

9. QTE QUESTION: WITH THE NORTHWEST CAPE, THAT'S 1988. IN
THE LONG TERM OBJECTIVE IT WOULD SEEM THAT...

QTE CAIRNS: WELL, I DON'T WANT TO SEE THE PRESENT AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT TACKLE ANY MORE THAN IT CAN EFFECTIVELY POLITICALLY
DIGEST. AND I THINK THAT WE HAVE TO DO A LOT OF EDUCATION,
EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC OPINION, BEFORE WE CAN DIGEST MUCH MORE
THAN THE PRESENT POSITION THE PRIME MINISTER HAS TAKEN.

10. QTE QUESTION: WITH INDOCHINA, DO YOU REGARD THE NON
RECOGNITION OF THE PRG (PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT)
AS A BREACH OF THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS?

QTE CAIRNS: I DON'T THINK A BREACH, BUT I THINK IT IS NOT
CONSISTENT WITH IT. I THINK THE PARIS AGREEMENT FULLY
IDENTIFIES THE PRG AS A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE PROCESS OF
GOVERNMENT AND ESPECIALLY ULTIMATE GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM.
I THINK IT IS ACCEPTED WITH THE SAME STANDING AS THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM IN SAIGON. I THINK ANY
FAILURE TO GIVE IT THAT RECOGNITION IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE
PARIS AGREEMENT.

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11. QTE QUTESTION: IN RELATION TO THE AUSTRALIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD BANK, AND MULTILATERAL AID TO THIEU, WOULD THIS BE REGARDED AS A BREACH. . . IF DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR WASN'T GIVEN TO THE PRG WOULD THIS BE REGARDED AS . . .

QTE CAIRNS: YES, I THINK THAT WOULD BE WRONG.

12. QTE QUESTION: WITH CAMBODIA, DO YOU THINK THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK?

QTE CAIRNS: PERSONALLY, I WOULD MAKE THIS MOVE, PERSONALLY, I WOULD NOT MAINTAIN RECOGNITION OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT. THAT'S THE FIRST STEP I WOULD TAKE. I THINK THAT UNFORTUNATELY, SIHANOUK HAS A DOUBTFUL EFFECTIVE BASIS IN CAMBODIA ITSELF, AND IT WOULD BE A SALUTE TO SIHANOUK RATHER THAN A RECOGNITION OF THE FACTS IF WE RECOGNIZED HIM.

13. QTE QUESTION: CHANGING FROM INDOCHINA TO SOUTH AMERICA, TO CHILE; ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE APPROACH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN IN RECOGNIZING THE CHILEAN JUNTA?

QTE CAIRNS: WELL, MY OWN PRINCIPLE IS THAT I WOULD RECOGNIZE EVERY EXISTING GOVERNMENT SOONER OR LATER. WHETHER I AGREE
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WITH IT OR I DON'T AGREE WITH IT. AND I WOULD HAVE REPRESENTATION THERE IF IT WAS SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH FOR AUSTRALIA TO DO SO.

14. QTE QUESTION: BUT WEREN'T YOU JUST SAYING THAT YOU WOULD WITHDRAW RECOGNITION FROM LON NOL'S GOVERNMENT?

QTE CAIRNS: YES, BUT I DON'T AGREE THAT LON NOL IS AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT. I DON'T THINK HE HAS THE BASIS OF EFFECTIVENESS THAT THE REGIME IN CHILE HAS, FOR EXAMPLE.

15. QTE QUESTION: IN THOSE TERMS, ON CHILE, WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR CONSIDER A PROTEST NOTE ON THE TREATMENT OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS?

QTE CAIRNS: YES, OF COURSE.

16. QTE QUESTION: WHILE WE ARE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE KISSINGER STRATEGY?

QTE CAIRNS: I THINK THE KISSINGER STRATEGY HAS PRODUCED A GOOD DEAL OF DESIRABLE MODIFICATION IN THE CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I DON'T SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT VIETNAM, BECAUSE I THINK KISSINGER AND NIXON PROLONGED THE STRUGGLE IN VIETNAM,

NIXON MORE THAN KISSINGER, BUT PROLONGED IT UNDULY RATHER THAN
MODIFIED IT. BUT I THINK AS FAR AS THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION
IS CONCERNED IT HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL. END QTE.
GREEN

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